# BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

MARIE ELIZABETH LASATER, aka MARIE ELIZABETH MCCOY, aka MARIE ELIZABETH SCHNIEBER, aka MARIE ELIZABETH GARLAND

Registered Nurse License No. 436499

Respondent

Case No. 2011-686

OAH No. 2011030859

## **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in the above entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on August 26, 2011.

IT IS SO ORDERED July 27, 2011.

President

Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs

cannine K. Graves

State of California

	1				
1	KAMALA D. HARRIS				
2	Attorney General of California DIANN SOKOLOFF	•			
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	Deputy Attorney General				
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. 7	Attorneys for Complainant				
8	BEFORE THE				
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS				
10	STATE OF C	CALIFORNIA			
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2011-686			
12	MARIE ELIZABETH LASATER, a.k.a.	OAH No. 2011030859			
13	MARIE ELIZABETH MCCOY, a.k.a.	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND			
	MARIE ELIZABETH SCHNIEBER, a.k.a. MARIE ELIZABETH GARLAND	DISCIPLINARY ORDER			
14	14786 HWY 63   Licking, MO 65542-8274				
15	Registered Nurse License No. 436499				
16	Respondent.				
17					
18	TT IS LIEDED V STIDLIL ATED AND ACI	OPED by and between the neutros to the above			
19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above- entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:				
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21	<u>PARTIES</u>				
22	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of				
23	Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in				
İ	this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Susana A.				
24	Gonzales, Deputy Attorney General.				
25	2. Respondent Marie Elizabeth Lasater, also known as Marie Elizabeth McCoy, also				
26	known as Marie Elizabeth Schnieber, also known as Marie Elizabeth Garland (Respondent) is				
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representing herself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.

3. On or about March 31, 1989, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse License No. 436499 to Marie Elizabeth Lasater, also known as Marie Elizabeth McCoy, also known as Marie Elizabeth Schnieber, also known as Marie Elizabeth Garland (Respondent). The Registered Nurse License expired on March 31, 2011, and has not been renewed.

#### JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 2011-686 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on February 7, 2011. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2011-686 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

## ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2011-686. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 2011-686.
- 9. Respondent agrees that her Registered Nurse License is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board of Registered Nursing (Board's) probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

## **CIRCUMSTANCES IN MITIGATION**

10. Respondent Marie Elizabeth Lasater, also known as Marie Elizabeth McCoy, also known as Marie Elizabeth Schnieber, also known as Marie Elizabeth Garland has never been the subject of any disciplinary action. She is admitting responsibility at an early stage in the proceedings.

### **CONTINGENCY**

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Registered Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions,

negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

### DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 436499 issued to Respondent Marie Elizabeth Lasater, also known as Marie Elizabeth McCoy, also known as Marie Elizabeth Schnieber, also known as Marie Elizabeth Garland (Respondent) is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

Comply with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with

representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

- 3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.
- 4. Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State. Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. Submit Written Reports. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

Function as a Registered Nurse. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24

hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. **Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to her employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. Supervision. Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient

care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
- (b) Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.
- (c) Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.
- (d) Home Health Care If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.
- 9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses.

The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. Complete a Nursing Course(s). Respondent, at her own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of her probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. **Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$1,510.00. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months prior to the end of the probation term.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation will apply.

12. **Violation of Probation**. If Respondent violates the conditions of her probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

13. License Surrender. During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

- (1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other than a mental or physical illness; or
  - (2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.
- 14. **Physical Examination**. Within 45 days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent, at her expense, shall have a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, who is approved by the Board before the assessment is performed, submit an assessment of Respondent's physical condition and capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse, including a determination as set forth below in Condition 16, "Rule-Out Substance Abuse Assessment." Such an assessment shall be submitted in a format acceptable to the Board. If

medically determined, a recommended treatment program will be instituted and followed by Respondent with the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant providing written reports to the Board on forms provided by the Board.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required until the Board has notified Respondent that a medical determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted

15. **Mental Health Examination.** Respondent shall, within 45 days of the effective date of this decision, have a mental health examination including psychological testing as appropriate to determine his/her capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse, including a determination as set forth below in Condition 16, "Rule-Out Substance Abuse Assessment." The examination will be performed by a psychiatrist, psychologist or other licensed mental health practitioner approved by the Board. The examining mental health practitioner will submit a written report of that assessment and recommendations to the Board. All costs are the responsibility of the respondent. Recommendations for treatment, therapy or

counseling made as a result of the mental health examination will be instituted and followed by the respondent.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed mental health care practitioner making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and may not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required, until the Board has notified respondent that a mental health determination permits respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by the respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

- 16. Rule Out Substance Abuse Assessment. If the examiner conducting the physical and/or mental examination determines that Respondent is dependent upon drugs or alcohol, or has problems with drugs or alcohol (i.e. drug dependence in remission or alcohol dependence in remission) that might reasonably affect the safe practice of nursing, then Respondent must further comply with the following additional terms and conditions of probation:
- (A) PARTICIPATE IN TREATMENT/REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE. Respondent, at her expense, shall successfully complete during the probationary period or shall have successfully completed prior to commencement of probation a Board-approved treatment/rehabilitation program of at least six months duration. As required, reports shall be submitted by the program on forms provided by the Board. If Respondent has not

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completed a Board-approved treatment/rehabilitation program prior to commencement of probation, Respondent, within 45 days from the effective date of the decision, shall be enrolled in a program. If a program is not successfully completed within the first nine months of probation, the Board shall consider Respondent in violation of probation.

Based on Board recommendation, each week Respondent shall be required to attend at least one, but no more than five 12-step recovery meetings or equivalent (e.g., Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.) and a nurse support group as approved and directed by the Board. If a nurse support group is not available, an additional 12-step meeting or equivalent shall be added. Respondent shall submit dated and signed documentation confirming such attendance to the Board during the entire period of probation. Respondent shall continue with the recovery plan recommended by the treatment/rehabilitation program or a licensed mental health examiner and/or other ongoing recovery groups.

(B) ABSTAIN FROM USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC (MOOD-ALTERING) DRUGS. Respondent shall completely abstain from the possession, injection or consumption by any route of all controlled substances and all psychotropic (mood altering) drugs, including alcohol, except when the same are ordered by a health care professional legally authorized to do so as part of documented medical treatment. Respondent shall have sent to the Board, in writing and within fourteen (14) days, by the prescribing health professional, a report identifying the medication, dosage, the date the medication was prescribed, the Respondent's prognosis, the date the medication will no longer be required, and the effect on the recovery plan, if appropriate.

Respondent shall identify for the Board a single physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant who shall be aware of Respondent's history of substance abuse and will coordinate and monitor any prescriptions for Respondent for dangerous drugs, controlled substances or moodaltering drugs. The coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant shall report to the Board on a quarterly basis Respondent's compliance with this condition. If any substances considered addictive have been prescribed, the report shall identify a program for the time limited use of any such substances.

The Board may require the single coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant to be a specialist in addictive medicine, or to consult with a specialist in addictive medicine.

participate in a random, biological fluid testing or a drug screening program which the Board approves. The length of time and frequency will be subject to approval by the Board.

Respondent is responsible for keeping the Board informed of Respondent's current telephone number at all times. Respondent shall also ensure that messages may be left at the telephone number when she is not available and ensure that reports are submitted directly by the testing agency to the Board, as directed. Any confirmed positive finding shall be reported immediately to the Board by the program and Respondent shall be considered in violation of probation.

In addition, Respondent, at any time during the period of probation, shall fully cooperate with the Board or any of its representatives, and shall, when requested, submit to such tests and samples as the Board or its representatives may require for the detection of alcohol, narcotics, hypnotics, dangerous drugs, or other controlled substances.

If Respondent has a positive drug screen for any substance not legally authorized and not reported to the coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, and the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to participate in a random, biological fluid testing or drug screening program within the specified time frame, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. After taking into account documented evidence of mitigation, if the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

1	(D) THERAPY OR COUNSELING PROGRAM. Respondent, at her expense, shall			
2	participate in an on-going counseling program until such time as the Board releases her from this			
3	requirement and only upon the recommendation of the counselor. Written progress reports from			
4 <sup>.</sup>	the counselor will be required at various intervals.			
5	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>			
6	I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the			
7	stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter into this Stipulate			
8	Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be			
9	bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.			
10				
11	DATED: 5/27/11 MARIE ELIZABETH LASATER			
12	MARIE ELIZABETH LASATER Respondent			
13				
14	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>			
15	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully			
16	submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer			
17	Affairs.			
18				
19	Dated: 6 \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \			
20	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California			
21	DIANN SOKOLOFF Supervising Deputy Attorney General			
22				
23	Slevarallon			
24	SUSANA A. GONZALES Deputy Attorney General			
25	Attorneys for Complainant			
26	AMOUNT AMAR AND			
27				
28	SF2010900519 90191281.doc			

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 2011-686

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1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California		٠.		
2	DIANN SOKOLOFF Supervising Deputy Attorney General				
3	SUSANA A. GONZALES Deputy Attorney General		w,		
4	State Bar No. 253027				
-5	1515 Clay Street, 20th Floor P.O. Box 70550				
6	Oakland, CA 94612-0550 Telephone: (510) 622-2221		•		
7	Facsimile: (510) 622-2270 Attorneys for Complainant				
8	BEFORE THE				
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS				
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
	V.	n n 1.81.			
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2011-686	. *		
12	MARIE ELIZABETH LASATER, a.k.a. MARIE ELIZABETH MCCOY, a.k.a.		·		
13	MARIE ELIZABETH MCCOY, a.k.a. MARIE ELIZABETH SCHNIEBER, a.k.a. MARIE ELIZABETH GARLAND	ACCUSATION			
14	14786 HWY 63				
15	Licking, MO 65542-8274 Registered Nurse License No. 436499				
16	Respondent.				
17					
18					
19	Complainant alleges:				
20	<u>PARTIES</u>				
21	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her				
22	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of				
23	Consumer Affairs.				
	2. On or about March 31, 1989, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered				
<ul><li>24</li><li>25</li></ul>	Nurse License Number 436499 to Marie Elizabeth Lasater, also known as Marie Elizabeth McCoy, also known as Marie Elizabeth Schnieber, also known as Marie Elizabeth Garland				
26					
27	(Respondent). The Registered Nurse License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to				
	the charges brought in this Accusation and will	expire on March 31, 2011, unless	renewed.		
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#### JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code (Code) provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811, subdivision (b), of the Code, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
- 6. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.

#### STATUTORY PROVISIONS

7. Section 2761 of the Code states:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- "(4) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other disciplinary action against a health care professional license or certificate by another state or territory of the United States, by any other government agency, or by another California health care professional licensing board. A certified copy of the decision or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action.

"(b) Procuring his or her certificate or license by fraud, misrepresentation, or mistake.

"(e) Making or giving any false statement or information in connection with the application for issuance of a certificate or license."

### <u>DRUGS</u>

8. "Fentanyl," also known by the brand name Sublimaze, is a strong analgesic, pharmacodynamically similar to merperdine and morphine. It is used preoperatively, during surgery and in the immediate postoperative period. Among other applications, the drug may be used in the management of breakthrough cancer pain. Fentanyl and Fentanyl citrate preparations are Schedule II controlled substances as designated by California Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (c)(8), and a dangerous drug within the meaning of Code section 4022.

### **COST RECOVERY**

9. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct – Out of State Discipline) (Bus. & Prof. Code §2761(a)(4))

10. Respondent has subjected her registered nurse license to disciplinary action under Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(4), in that on or about September 19, 2008, in a disciplinary action before the State Board of Nursing for the State of Missouri (Missouri Board), the Missouri Board entered a Disciplinary Order (Order) placing Respondent's registered nurse license on probation for five years. During the period of her probation, Respondent was required to:

(1) meet with the Missouri Board upon request; (2) immediately submit documents showing compliance with the Order at the request of the Missouri Board; (3) inform the Missouri Board within 10 days of any change of address or home telephone number; (4) not violate the Nursing Practice Act, renew her license, and not allow her license to lapse; (5) inform the Missouri Board

of her current place of employment and of any changes in her place of employment within 10 working days; (6) immediately advise all current and future employers of the probationary status of her license and provide a copy of the Order to such employer; (7) cause each employer to submit a quarterly evaluation form; (8) if Respondent ends employment with an employer, cause that employer to submit a final evaluation form within six weeks of Respondent's last day of employment; (9) if unemployed during the period of probation, submit an affidavit stating the period(s) of unemployment; (10) not serve on the administrative staff, as a member of the faculty, or as a preceptor at any accredited school of professional or practical nursing; (11) obey all federal, state, and local laws, and all rules and regulations governing the practice of nursing in the State of Missouri; (12) not carry narcotic keys or have access to automated dispensing devices which contain controlled substances; (13) not administer, possess, dispense, or otherwise have access to controlled substances; (14) only work as a nurse where there is on-site supervision by another nurse or physician; (15) not work for a temporary employment agency or as an independent contractor; and (16) not work in a home health care or durable medical equipment.

11. The Order also required Respondent to undergo a thorough evaluation for chemical dependency by a licensed chemical dependency professional within six weeks from the effective date of the Order. The Order required Respondent to cause the chemical dependency professional to mail the results of the evaluation directly to the Missouri Board. If the chemical dependency professional did not recommend treatment, Respondent was required to: (1) execute a release so that the Board could obtain the evaluation and supporting documents; (2) abstain completely from the use or consumption of alcohol; (3) abstain completely from the personal use or possession of any controlled substance or other drug for which a prescription is required, unless prescribed to Respondent; (4) execute a medical release upon request; and (5) provide the Missouri Board with documentation of any prescription upon request. If treatment was recommended by the chemical dependency professional, the Order required Respondent to: (1) follow any recommendations for treatment made by the chemical dependency professional; (2) submit quarterly updates of treatment evaluation from the chemical dependency professional; (3) abstain completely from the use or consumption of alcohol; (4) abstain completely from the personal use or possession of any

controlled substance or other drug for which a prescription is required, unless prescribed to Respondent; (5) execute a medical release upon request; (6) inform any professional preparing a prescription for her that she is chemically dependent; (7) provide the Board with documentation of any prescription upon request; (8) if a 12-step program or other support group was recommended, submit evidence of weekly (or recommended) attendance at such group meetings; and (9) if Respondent's treatment is successfully completed at any time during the period covered by the Order, cause the chemical dependency professional to submit a letter of final evaluation or summary.

- Respondent to: (1) contract with the Missouri Board-approved third party administrator (TPA) to schedule random and witnessed screening for alcohol and other drugs of abuse or serum screening for alcohol or other drugs; (2) complete TPA's urine drug screen packet within 20 days of the effective date of the Order; and (3) within six weeks from the effective date of the Order, undergo a thorough evaluation performed by a licensed mental health professional and cause the mental health professional to mail the results of the evaluation directly to the Missouri Board. If the mental health professional did not recommend treatment, the Order required Respondent to adhere to the same conditions as if the chemical dependency professional did not recommend treatment. If the mental health professional recommended treatment, Respondent was required to adhere to the same conditions as if the chemical dependency professional recommended treatment.
- 13. The underlying conduct supporting the Missouri Board's disciplinary action is that on or about May 20, 2008, Respondent entered a Settlement Agreement with the Missouri Board admitting to various acts of unprofessional conduct, which supported discipline of her Missouri registered nurse license. Specifically, Respondent admitted that on or about September 23, 2005, while working as a registered nurse at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, she was requested to submit to a for-cause drug screen. Respondent tested positive for Fentanyl. Respondent admitted that on or about September 23, 2005, she misappropriated the Fentanyl from her employer.

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#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct – Misrepresentation in Procuring License) (Bus. & Prof. Code §2761(b)),

- 14. Complainant realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 10 through 13 above, and incorporates them by reference as if fully set forth.
- 15. Respondent has subjected her registered nurse license to disciplinary action under Code section 2761, subdivision (b), in that she procured her nursing certification from the Board through misrepresentation. The circumstances are as follows:
- Report to the California Board in connection with the renewal of her California registered nurse license. In the Supplemental Information Report, Respondent denied having had any license disciplined by a government agency or other disciplinary body since she last renewed her license. Respondent last renewed her California registered nurse license on or about January 24, 2007. Respondent's denial of having any license disciplined since she last renewed her California registered nurse license constitutes a misrepresentation given that her Missouri registered nurse license was disciplined by the Missouri Board on or about September 19, 2008.

#### THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct – False Statement or Information in Application)
(Bus. & Prof. Code §2761(e))

- 17. Complainant realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 10 through 16 above, and incorporates them by reference as if fully set forth.
- 18. Respondent has subjected her registered nurse license to disciplinary action under Code section 2761, subdivision (e), in that she made or gave false statements and information to the Board in connection with the renewal of her California registered nurse license. The circumstances are set forth above in paragraphs 10 through 16.

#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 436499, issued to Marie Elizabeth Lasater, also known as Marie Elizabeth McCoy, also known as Marie Elizabeth Schnieber, also known as Marie Elizabeth Garland;
- 2. Ordering Marie Elizabeth Lasater, also known as Marie Elizabeth McCoy, also known as Marie Elizabeth Schnieber, also known as Marie Elizabeth Garland to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
  - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: Yebruary 7, 2011

LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN

Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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